



Kulani contains some of the highest quality ancient koa and ohia forests on the island of Hawaii, and is the pristine core of the Three Mountain Alliance (TMA) watershed partnership. Since 1992, investments of state and federal funds have created infrastructure and staff to provide the highest levels of protection by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and TMA. DLNR supports the use of the facility as a Youth Challenge Academy and designating undeveloped portions of the land as a Natural Area Reserve under DLNR jurisdiction.

Resources



- Key habitat and population corridor for five endangered Hawaiian birds and a bat, including the Akiapolaau (left).
- Ten endangered plants species known from Kulani.
- Presence of these species on the parcel assigns responsibilities for their protection to the land managers.

Responsibilities of Managing Entity

- The Federal Endangered Species Act regulates or prohibits actions that negatively alter endangered species habitat. Activities that affects endangered birds would require approval of a Habitat Conservation Plan and "incidental take" licenses.
- Entire Kulani parcel is in the State Conservation District (Resource and General Subzones) which prohibits or regulates activities such as agriculture and development in order to prevent degradation of important natural resources. Most activities require a Conservation District Use Permit.
- Fulfill existing Federal and State grant contracts.

Managing Kulani

For sixteen years, the DLNR, DPS, and TMA have invested to protect the resources at Kulani while providing vocational training.

- Approx. 28 mi of fence built to completely enclose Kulani.
- TMA field crew leader position dedicated to Kulani projects and vocational training.



A greenhouse at Kulani provides infrastructure for restoration and vocational training

- Pigs and cattle removed from entire parcel.
- Paved a portion of Stainback Highway.
- Outplanted 3,000 endangered Silversword seedlings in fenced areas, and thousands more native plants for restoration.
- TMA leads an environmental studies and native plant horticulture program for restoration, education, and vocational training.



TMA works through partnering to expand watershed protection and management to over one million acres across the volcanoes of Mauna Loa, Kilauea and Hualalai, thus making it the largest cooperative land management effort in the state of Hawaii.

Alliance Partners:

Department of Land and Natural Resources
 Department of Public Safety
 National Park Service
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 U.S. Geological Survey
 Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center
 Kamehameha Schools
 U.S.D.A Forest Service
 The Nature Conservancy
 U.S.D.A Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Management success has already been demonstrated with koa and ohia forest restoration occurring in areas relieved from cattle and feral ungulate pressure.
- The TMA was nationally recognized in May 2009 with the Partners in Conservation Award. The award is one of the highest the Department of the Interior established for conservation achievements. This award recognized the outstanding conservation results produced from TMA's partnership management at Kulani and other areas.

Future Management Needs of Kulani

The most costly phase of management has already been completed at Kulani, and TMA staff are dedicated to continuing management of this area. Future needs include:

- Fence and Infrastructure maintenance.
- Ungulate and weed control.
- Native habitat restoration, natural and managed (including monitoring of rare species)
- Continue vocational training: Horticulture program/ greenhouse, native restoration and landscaping



Before and after:
With pig removal,
the forest can
regrow.

Proposed Partnership Opportunities

We can partner together to heal the forest while helping at-risk youth.

- Build on previous partnership with DPS by using existing infrastructure and programs to provide career training in conservation.
- Provide vocational training to Youth Challenge Academy students.
- Set aside the undeveloped portion of the parcel as a Natural Area Reserve, to be managed by the DLNR.



Youth can develop career skills in horticulture, landscaping and conservation



The DLNR believes that the undeveloped portions of this 7,244.27-acre parcel are most appropriately managed as a Natural Area Reserve, which would leverage and combine conservation efforts invested in the adjacent Puu Makaala NAR. Natural Area Reserve designation would facilitate the continued long-term management of this area for native ecosystem protection. At the same time, an agreement with the DLNR and the DOD could provide both agencies beneficial and appropriate use of Kulani, including use of the developed area as a Youth Challenge Academy.